Chapter 71

# Sunny Place

HELLOOO!

PARDON THE IN-TRUUU...

SION...

SFX: GARARA...

SFX: SUUU... SUU...

スー……

スー……

She's sleeping...

Tried just sitting down for now...

HEAVE-HO...

"Doesn't seem to know if it's okay to enter a room a girl is sleeping in..."

Sort if in, sort of out

……

SFX: KASA...

SFX: PEROPERO... (LICK LICK) SUUU... SUUU...

I wonder why.

The air around her feels soft for the first time in a while.

It's like she's

faintly

glowing...

I kind of feel

like I want to look at this

forever...

REI-CHAN!

REI-CHAN!

.....

Looks like he fell asleep at some point

HAH

IVAAHH!

REI-CHAAN!

WOAH, THAT'S AMAZING!

SO MANY... —WAIT, HUH?! ALL OF THEM??

WHAT ABOUT YOU, SHIMADA-SAN? YOU WORKED SO HARD TO PICK ALL THESE, YOU'RE NOT GONNA AT THEM?

NAW.

I'VE GOT A FEELING THE ACIDITY OF THE SUMMER MIKANS WOULD MELT THE LINING OF MY STOMACH...

I've got to make some jam!

Oh my! I can save so much on food bills again!

Hahh

Jam...?

THEY DON'T HAVE ANY PESTICIDES OR ANYTHING ON THEM SO MAYBE YOU CAN USE THEM TO MAKE JAM?

I can't though...

AHA HA HA

WOAH! SUMMER MIKANS!! AND SO MANY!!

HE TOLD ME HE'D PICKED TOO MANY SO I SHOULD TAKE SOME...

MY SENPAI AT THE STUDY GROUP GAVE THEM TO ME...

Oh no I must've gotten caught up in the moment and fallen asleep

—She really does have this dim glow...

.....

I wonder why?

WHAT A NICE SMELL...

THIS IS GREAT!

ONEI-CHAN'S MARMALADE IS SO DELICIOUS.

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S OVER...

KIRIYAMA-KUN.

HEY, UM...

—Oh...

HUH...?

I see.

This is...

PROBABLY.

I THINK IT'S OVER...

what that light's about, huh...?

AREN'T THEY CUTE?

I MADE THEM

AT MY CLASSMATE KAWASHIMA-SAN'S HOUSE YESTERDAY.

I MADE THEM WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF MY GROUP.

KAWAMO-TO-SAN,

KILICHI-SAN,

KOBAYASHI-SAN,

AND KUDOU-SAN...

KA-WAMO-TO-SAN,

HEY, UH, WE'RE GOING TO KAWASHIMA-SAN'S HOUSE TO MAKE COOKIES TODAY.

...YOU WANNA COME?

HUH ...?

UM

W... WE WERE SCARED,

SO...

WE'RE SORRY!

WE COULDN'T DO ANY-THING...

WE... KNOW YOU MIGHT NOT FORGIVE US

EVEN IF WE APOLOGIZE NOW, BUT...

—Then we changed clothes

And met back up at Kawashima's house.

So we ate lots and lots of them.

—And laughing the whole time, we reached a point where we said, "But these freshly baked ones sure are good!"

The cookies we finished were misshapen and hard.

—I wonder why?

The cookies we bought were way, way tastier, but for some reason we had so much fun, they tasted really good and made us really happy...

KIRIYAMA-KUN, DID YOU KNOW? WHEN YOU PUT FRESHLY BAKED ONES

RIGHT IN YOUR MOUTH, THEY GO "SZZZZL"?

HEY!

THEY BURNED THE INSIDE OF MY MOUTH.

**Seeing her say that, innocently opening her mouth,**

**and seeing the sun**

**hit her teeth**

**and her tongue, I**

**was sort of**

**filled with all kinds of emotions.**

**and I wanted to cry.**

**Like my chest was in pain**

HINA-CHAN, I'M SORRY.

I promised to protect you, after all.

Back then, right here,

IN THE END

—That's right.

I...

I REALLY COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP.

NOTHING...?

.....

.....

BUT KIRI-YAMA-KUN,

.....

MUCH, DIDN'T YOU?

SO.

SO,

-YOU TALKED TO ME

YOU EVEN WENT ALL THE WAY TO KYOTO TO LOOK FOR ME, DIDN'T YOU?

HUH..?

STILL,

AT THE END OF THE DAY, NOTHING I..

NO "STILLS"!

DON'T YOU REMEMBER HOW HAPPY I WAS?!

SFX BARIH

Ouw!

SFX BABUHH (CHOMP)

OW! OW!

KIRIYAMA-KUN, YOU IDIOT!

NO "BUTS"!

B-

BUT I

FROM CHIHO-CHAN?

I GOT A LETTER FROM CHIHO-CHAN!

OH YEAH!

REALLY?

HEY, UM,

After she said that, she pulled my hand like in a dance

ONCE SUMMER VACATION STARTS, I'M GONNA GO VISIT HER!

—AND,

AND, YA KNOW,

FOR SURE!

and she started pulling me steadily.

—And...

in my heart

one more time

I vowed loyalty

to that brave little girl

that would never bend her will

no matter how much she cried or how much it hurt.

Chapter 71 END

Senzaki Manabu's Lion Shogi Column
AN ARTICLE BY SENZAKI MANABU
2

## THIS AND THAT ABOUT TITLE MATCHES...

Title matches are the splendor of the shogi world. Local government and TV stations work together to make them really exciting huge events, but it does not always go that way. Sometimes they are very compact events, for example all title matches across the country that take place in the shogi association buildings are quite dry events. Many shogi players will gather into the waiting rooms, but most of these such matches have no events aimed towards amateur fans (with the exception of the staple big-board commentaries). It sure is interesting that the title matches that take place at shogi headquarters are dull ones, isn't it?
Generally speaking, in shogi tournaments, the first game, the opening game, seems to very often have a big show to it. And as the game number progresses and the games get into the second half, it frequently gets duller. This is a quality of all many-game series because since the match may just end suddenly in the latter half, the sponsors don't plan big events for then in case it all goes to waste.

While title matches have a big night-before party, both players can't afford to greet people, talk with people, and relax to enjoy a meal. What they do is right after the night-before party, they have a dinner meets in separate rooms with only their inner-circle. While the two of them sometimes in separate rooms, generally they hold the banquet in the same room together. But the two competitors are never sitting next to each other, observers will be seated between them. I've experienced it many times myself, and it's not all that tense, it's a rather harmonious affair.
There's a lot of non-stop drinking involved, too. I suppose you've got to expect it with so many observers, other shogi players, journalists and other staff that have many big drinkers among them all there. The players themselves will frequently do some small degree of drinking as well.
Even after those parties end, the staff along will go to an after party and on very rare occasions there's even an after-after party. Sometimes one of the competitors may unexpectedly show up at an after party. Of course, some players will never show up at them, that sort of thing just depends on the individual's personality.

After a safe completion of a match, or after reaching the pause point, there is a closing party. These, too, are sometimes flashy and sometimes have a much more homelike atmosphere. The players themselves will drink here frequently. The whole thing being over at this point, of course. It's not infrequent for everyone to really get talking and for the party to not break up until after midnight. And times when the two competitors get drunk are..... as you'd expect, not too frequent. But while they are in serious matches when sitting in front of the board, once they get away from them they are with faces they've known since they were kids. And if they're close, especially during times of title matches, these parties have a very warm atmosphere about them.

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 7

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